



Ambivalent Legacies: Memory and Amnesia in Post-Habsburg and Post-Ottoman Cities

from
memory

The empires that once defined the political geography of Europe are no more. One cannot meet a Prussian, Romanov, Habsburg, or Ottoman today; these dusty categories of affiliation have ceded to myriad national identities. Yet it would be mistaken to assume that Europe's bygone empires have become mere relics of history. Imperial pasts continue to inspire nostalgia, identification, pride, anxiety, skepticism, and disdain in the present. The afterlives of empires as objects of memory exceed historical knowledge, precisely because these afterlives shape and recast the present and the future. Simultaneously, present- and future-oriented imperatives accentuate imperial pasts in selective ways, yielding new configurations of post-imperial amnesia as well as memory. Our conference brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars working on post-imperial legacies in relation to a variety of specific cities, including Vienna, Istanbul, Budapest, Sarajevo, Trieste, Thessaloniki, Zagreb, and Belgrade. Our contributors pursue the politics and cultures of memory in relation to two general, interrelated questions: What are the effects of imperial legacies on contemporary cities? and, How do present-day urban processes reshape the forms of post-imperial memory and forgetting?

Schedule

Day One (Wednesday, April 26th)

09:00-10:30 GREETING, OPENING REMARKS, COFFEE

10:30-12:30 PANEL ONE: CULTIVATING PASTS

SOTIRIOS DIMITRIADIS (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)

Rediscovering the Past as Future: The Ottoman Legacy as Part of Public Discourse in Greek Macedonia

KIMBERLY HART (SUNY Buffalo State)

Istanbul's Intangible Cultural Heritage as Embodied by Street Animals

MILOŠ JOVANOVIĆ (MPI-MMG)

Whitewashed Empire: Historical Narrative and Place Marketing in Vienna

OLGA ORLIĆ and **ANITA SUJOLDZIC** (Institute for Anthropological Research, Zagreb)

From Agram to Zagreb: the Austro-Hungarian Legacy in Tourism Discourses of the Croatian Capital

Discussant: **NEENA MAHADEV** (MPI-MMG)

12:30-13:20 *Lunch (for participants)*

13:30-15:00 KEYNOTE

LARRY WOLFF (New York University)

Galicia after Galicia: Phantoms and Fantasies of Remembrance

19:00 *Dinner (for participants)*



Contacts:



Day Two (Thursday, April 27th)

09:00-11:00 PANEL TWO: CURATING HERITAGE

GIULIA CARABELLI (MPI-MMG)

Coffee Culture in the Shadow of the Empire

ANNIKA KIRBIS (MPI-MMG)

Weltstadt without Migrants? Navigating Post-Imperial Nostalgia and Transnational Memories in Vienna

EMILY NEUMEIER (Ohio State University)

Mediating Memories of Empire in the Post-Imperial Museum

ZSUZSANNA VARGA (Central European University)

"...With This Artificial Asia We Will Achieve Better Results": The Turkish Theme Park at the Millennium Exhibition of 1896, Budapest

Discussant: **JULIA MOSES** (University of Sheffield and Georg August University of Göttingen, Institute for Sociology)

11:00-11:15 *Coffee*

11:15-13:15 PANEL THREE: MEDIATED REFRACTIONS

SRĐAN ATANASOVSKI (Institute of Musicology SASA, Belgrade)

Artists, Amateurs and Bureaucrats at Work: Sonic Inclusion and "Die [Gast]Arbeiter von Wien"

MELINDA HARLOV-CSORTÁN (Hungarian ICOMOS)

Sissi was Hungarian: The Role of the Habsburg Empress in the Urban Formation of Hungarian National Memory in the Capital

IRENA ŠENTEVSKA (University of Arts, Belgrade)

Crni Gruja in Belgrade: The Early De-Ottomanization of Serbia in a TV Sitcom

JEREMY WALTON (MPI-MMG)

Heroes Without Villains? The Croatian Count, the Repressed Sultan, and the Post-Imperial Fashioning of Nationalism(s)

Discussant: **PATRICK EISENLOHR** (Georg August University of Göttingen, Centre for Modern Indian Studies)

13:15-14:00 *Lunch (for participants)*

14:00-16:00 PANEL FOUR: UNSETTLING HISTORIES

GRUIA BADESCU (Center for Advanced Studies of Southeastern Europe, University of Rijeka)
Cosmopolitan Heritage? Post-War Reconstruction and Imperial Memory in Sarajevo and Beirut

FATMA MÜGE GÖÇEK (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor)

An Ottoman Legacy of Violence: The Assassination of Hrant Dink in Kurtuluş, Istanbul on 19 January 2007





LIORA HALPERIN (University of Colorado Boulder)

Making Migrant Memory: Jewish Colonists from the Habsburg and Russian Empires in Ottoman Palestine and the Ambivalence of Imperial Legacies"

PIRO REXHEPI (MPI-MMG)

The Politics of Postcolonial Erasure in Sarajevo

Discussant: **MATTHIAS KOENIG** (MPI-MMG and Georg August University of Göttingen)

16:00-16:15 *Coffee*

16:15-18:00 OPERA PANEL

TATJANA MARKOVIĆ (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna),

ADAM MESTYAN (Duke University, USA), and

LARRY WOLFF (New York University).

Moderator: **MILOŠ JOVANOVIĆ** (MPI-MMG)

19:00 *Dinner (for participants)*

Day Three (Friday, April 28th)

09:00-11:30 PANEL FIVE: CONTESTED MATERIALITIES

BORUT KLABJAN (European University Institute / Science and Research Centre Koper)

"Relocating Sissi": The Afterlife of Habsburg Landscape in Trieste

PANAGIOTIS KONTOLAIMOS (National Technical University of Athens - Kaloutsiani Mosque Restoration Project)

The So-Called "White Tower" and the City of Thessaloniki: A Piece of Ottoman Heritage Reclaimed

DUNJA RESANOVIĆ (Boğaziçi University, Department of History)

From Three Ottoman Gates to Three Serbian Realms of Memory: Urbanistic and Performative Rewriting of Belgrade from 1878 until Today

BEHAR SADRIU (SOAS, University of London)

Shrine Diplomacy: Turkey's Quest for a Post-Kemalist Identity

MERITA ZEKOVIC

Vijećnica – The Chameleon of Sarajevo

Discussant: **MICHALIS MOUTSELOS** (MPI-MMG)

11:30-11:45 *Coffee*

11:45-13:15 PLENARY

AMY MILLS (University of South Carolina)

Making the Urban Afterlife of Empire: Memory and Cultural Geopolitics in Post-WWI Istanbul

13:15-13:45 *Lunch (for participants)*

13:45-15:00 ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

19:00 *Dinner (for participants)*



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Ambivalent Legacies: Memory and Amnesia in Post-Habsburg and Post-Ottoman Cities

April 26-28, 2017

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (MPI-MMG)

Hosted by the Max Planck Research Group, "Empires of Memory: The Cultural Politics of Historicity in Former Habsburg and Ottoman Cities"

Contacts: Dr. Jeremy F. Walton (walton@mmg.mpg.de), Marina Czieielsky (cziesielsky@mmg.mpg.de)

Conference Description

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park, memorialized the epoch of Ottoman rule between 1541 and 1686. Paradoxically, the theme park was part of demonstrating the country's Westernness. The emphasis was on the genre: the Ottoman past was staged in an Oriental townscape with the help of the transnationally legible, commercialized imagery of late nineteenth century colonial exhibitions and world fairs. In this form the Turkish theme park proved that Budapest was just like any Western metropolis. I argue such a reappropriation of the Ottoman past was profoundly influenced by associations between Eastern Europe and scales of development. According to the narrative of liberal progress, Asian roots and Ottoman rule were historic moments and conditions which Hungarians had to surpass. Remnants of the past had to be brought under management in order to realize the full potential of Budapest as a cosmopolitan city, as a regional hub of Southeast Europe and a rival to Vienna. The Turkish-Hungarian theme park, as a planned, calculated container of the East was highly desirable for this result, but spontaneous expressions of Eastern Europeanness, such as peasant garbs, were to be cleared from the streets.

Zsuzsanna Varga is a PhD candidate in Comparative Gender Studies at Central European University and studies how theories of gender and racial hierarchies influenced the making of modern selves in fin-de-siècle Budapest. Her research interests include postcolonial theory, multi-ethnicity and Habsburg imperialism, and the relationship between colonial world fairs and national fairs in East Central Europe.

PANEL THREE: MEDIATED REFRACTIONS

Srđan Atanasovski

Artists, Amateurs and Bureaucrats at Work: Sonic Inclusion and “Die [Gast]Arbeiter von Wien”

As a former imperial capital, Vienna has attracted immigrants throughout the second half of the 20th century, providing not only a space of life, but also a

space where various cultural organizations could be established. Throughout the Cold War, its role as a gate towards the West additionally contributed to its urban melting pot environment. One of the important phenomena in Viennese immigrant history are guest workers (*Gastarbeiter*) coming from bordering socialist Yugoslavia. In 2016 the 50th anniversary of the contract between the Republic of Austria and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regulating voluntary migration of Yugoslav workers, was marked by an exhibition entitled *Ajnhajtclub* and held in frei_raum Q21 exhibition space in Museumsquartier in Vienna. Curated by Bogomir Doring, exhibition presented an array of artistic installations which problematized the status of Yugoslav guest workers in Austrian capital and their (guest) culture. Importantly, an integral part of the exhibition was also the official opening, which featured a performance of *Hor 29. Novembar*, an amateur self-organized choir initially founded as a choir of Yugoslav guest workers in Vienna with a pronounced left and inclusive political platform. Following Bojana Kunst's essay on the “artist at work” (2015), in this paper I will analyze this exhibition, particularly focusing on the preparatory stage and rehearsals of the opening performance of the choir and their interaction with the “art in making”. I will show how the idea of “inclusion” dissipated through the process of the “staging” of the performance engulfed with bureaucratic issues and artistic pretensions, but also through the permeative presence of social and symbolic borders which are part and parcel of the Yugoslav community itself. I will particularly emphasize the choir's own self-reflectivity of this political situation and their struggle to use their position as “amateurs at work” in order to act political subjects and escape the “proximity of art and capitalism”, which Kunst convincingly traces in her study.

Srđan Atanasovski (1983, Kumanovo, Macedonia) holds a PhD in musicology (2015, Faculty of Music in Belgrade) and is a Research Associate at the Institute of Musicology SASA in Belgrade. He benefited from the scholarship of the Scholarship Foundation of the Republic of Austria for PhD students and post-docs





in 2010/11 and 2015/16 and from the scholarship of Coimbra Group and the University of Graz in 2010/11. He has also worked as editor at Third Programme of Radio Belgrade and as an outside associate of Don Juan Archiv Wien. Atanasovski has presented his research in more than fifty international conferences in Austria, France, Germany, United Kingdom, as well as in fifteen other European countries and in the USA. He has particularly paid attention to regional cooperation, lecturing, attending seminars and/or performing research in neighboring countries of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, and others. He was a member of the program committee of three international symposia and he is active in several national and international scholarly societies (Serbian Musicological Society, European Seminar in Ethnomusicology, Commission on Urban Anthropology, etc.). He has published his articles in the scholarly journals *Musicologica Austriaca*, *Musicology*, *Musicological Annual*, *TheMA*, *Studies in Eastern European Cinema*, *Southeastern Europe*, etc. He has also contributed to edited volumes published by Transcript Verlag, Ashgate, Hollitzer Verlag, Palgrave Macmillan, and others. In 2014 he started working on two international scientific projects: City Sonic Ecology: Urban Soundscapes of Bern, Ljubljana, and Belgrade (led by the University of Bern, in cooperation with Ljubljana and Belgrade) and Figuring Out the Enemy: Re-Imagining Serbian-Albanian Relations (led by the Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory in Belgrade, in cooperation with Prishtina and Tirana).

Melinda Harlov-Csörtán

Sissi was Hungarian: The Role of the Habsburg Empress in the Urban Formation of Hungarian National Memory in the Capital

Sissi, The Queen of the Hungarians is not just the Hungarian title of the famous movie trilogy featuring Romy Schneider in 1955 and 1956, but the common knowledge about the Habsburg Empress from Austria, despite her tragic life and only minor influence on the Hungarian history. The myth of Queen Elisabeth has been realized in diverse media from poems to

statues and even churches dedicated to her. It started as early as the 1860s and exists even today with well definable sequences and transformations due to the contemporary circumstances. For example in the 1860s a certain segment of Hungarian society saw her as a tool/helper in fighting for the country's sovereignty, but after World War I like other Habsburg rulers' Sissi's popularity declined drastically. My presentation will focus on the urban representation of this myth in the Hungarian capital, Budapest that includes architecture, public art and the dedication of areas (districts and gardens) to her. Besides the territorial and temporal contextualization of the examples, the talk will contain art analysis, quotes and comparative research methodologies. The aim is to point out the methods and key elements of the nationalization of the foreign empress as well as to identify transformations or changes in these techniques and components due to the historical events. The critical analysis of these urban representations intends not just to reach a deep understanding of the role of the given historical persona but to contribute to the study and discourse about national memory formation and heritagization as well.

Melinda Harlov-Csörtán has studied (among many other subjects) history, nationalism and cultural heritage management in both Hungarian and English-speaking educational institutions. Since 2006, she has been working in diverse cultural institutions too that made her able to create network with members at her researched area and to experience the current practices. She finished her doctoral classes at Atelier Department of European Social Sciences and Historiography of Eötvös Loránd University, where her research topic is the establishment of UNESCO World Heritage Cultural sites in Hungary as a combination of the international norms and the national circumstances. Her comparative approach is ensured also by becoming member of international research teams and attending both national and foreign scholarly programs. She has presented her research at over thirty Hungarian and international conferences and published her findings at both types of scholarly publications too.

